

CLAIMS

1       1. (Unchanged) An apparatus for rotating a display orientation of captured  
2       image data representative of an object, the apparatus comprising:  
3           an image sensor, for generating said captured image data;  
4           an orientation sensor coupled to said image sensor, for generating a signal  
5           corresponding to the position of the image sensor relative to said  
6           object;  
7           a memory, having an auto-rotate unit comprising program instructions for  
8           selectively transforming said captured image data into rotated im-  
9           age data in response to said position signal, said memory coupled to  
10          said image sensor and to said orientation sensor; and  
11          an image processing unit coupled to said memory for executing program  
12          instructions stored in said memory; and  
13          an image capture unit generates an additional row and column of pixels  
14          for said captured image data from said image sensor  
15          [wherein (a) said image processing unit processes an i-by-j array of said captured  
16           image data and said image sensor generates an i+1-by-j+1 array of said im-  
17           age data, or (b) an image capture unit generates an additional row and col-  
18           umn of pixels for said captured image data from said image sensor].

1       2. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the memory further com-  
2       prises:  
3           an image processing unit comprising program instructions for transform-  
4           ing one from a group consisting of captured image data and portrait  
5           image data, into processed image data.

1       3. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: the signal is a portrait\_left  
2 signal if the image sensor is rotated clockwise from a landscape orientation relative  
3 to the object, and the signal is a portrait\_right signal if the image sensor is rotated  
4 counter-clockwise from the landscape orientation relative to the object; and  
5              the auto-rotate unit comprises program instructions for transforming the  
6              captured image data into portrait\_left image data in response to the  
7              portrait\_left signal and into portrait\_right image data in response to  
8              the portrait\_right signal.

1       4. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:  
2              the signal is a landscape signal if the image sensor is positioned in a level  
3              orientation relative to the object; and  
4              the auto-rotate unit comprises program instructions for transforming the  
5              captured image data into landscape image data in response to the  
6              landscape signal.

1       5. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein:  
2              the image sensor has a top, a bottom, a right side and a left side;  
3              the auto-rotate unit program instructions transform the captured image  
4              data into the portrait\_left image data by transferring a prior por-  
5              trait\_left line of image data which starts further toward the bottom  
6              of the image sensor and ends further toward the top of the image  
7              sensor, then transferring a subsequent portrait\_left line of image  
8              data, located closer to the right side of the image sensor than the  
9              prior portrait\_left line of image data, and also starting further to-  
10             ward the bottom of the image sensor and ending further toward the  
11             top of the image sensor; and

12 the auto-rotate unit program instructions transform the captured image  
13 data into the portrait\_right image data by transferring a prior por-  
14 trait\_right line of image data which starts further toward the top of  
15 the image sensor and ends further toward the bottom of the image  
16 sensor, then transferring a subsequent portrait\_right line of image  
17 data, located closer to the left side of the image sensor than the prior  
18 portrait\_right line of image data, and also starting further toward  
19 the top of the image sensor and ending further toward the bottom of  
20 the image sensor.

1 6. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein:  
2 the image sensor has a top, a bottom, a right side and a left side; and  
3 the auto-rotate unit program instructions transform the captured image  
4 data into the landscape image data by transferring a prior landscape  
5 line of image data which starts further toward the left side of the  
6 image sensor and ends further toward the right side of the image  
7 sensor, then transferring a subsequent landscape line of image data,  
8 located closer to the bottom of the image sensor than the prior land-  
9 scape line of image data, and also starting further toward the left  
10 side of the image sensor and ending further toward the right side of  
11 the image sensor.

1 7. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein:  
2 the portrait\_left signal is generated by the orientation sensor if the image  
3 sensor is rotated approximately 45° clockwise from the level orienta-  
4 tion, and the portrait\_right signal is generated by the orientation

5                   sensor if the imaging subsystem is rotated approximately 45°  
6                   counter-clockwise from the level orientation.

1       8. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein:  
2                   the prior portrait\_left line of image data and the prior portrait\_right line of  
3                   image data comprise a "green, red, green, red" pixel pattern; and  
4                   the subsequent portrait\_left line of image data and the subsequent por-  
5                   trait\_right line of image data comprise a "blue, green, blue, green"  
6                   pixel pattern.

1       9. (As Filed) An apparatus for rotating a display orientation of multicolor  
2                   captured image data having an i-by-j pixel matrix with a pattern representative of an  
3                   object, comprising:

4                   an image sensor, for generating the multicolor captured image data;  
5                   an input device, for generating a portrait\_left signal in response to a first  
6                   user selection, a portrait\_right signal in response to a second user  
7                   selection, and a landscape signal in response to a third user selec-  
8                   tion;  
9                   a memory, having:

10                  an auto-rotate unit comprising program instructions for selec-  
11                  tively transforming the multicolor captured image data  
12                  into portrait\_left image data in response to the portrait-  
13                  left signal, portrait\_right image data in response to the  
14                  portrait\_right signal, and landscape image data in re-  
15                  sponse to the landscape signal; and

16                  an image processing unit comprising program instructions for  
17                  transforming the portrait\_left image data, the por-

18 trait\_right image data and the landscape image data into  
19 processed image data; and  
20 a processing unit, coupled to the image sensor, to the input device, and to  
21 the memory, for executing program instructions stored in the mem-  
22 ory;  
23 wherein said image processing unit changes the number of pixel rows and  
24 pixel columns of the multicolor captured image data such that, from  
25 a defined referenced viewpoint, the portrait\_left image data, the por-  
26 trait\_right image data, and the landscape image data, each includes  
27 the an (i-1)-by-(j-1) pixel matrix having said pattern.

1 10. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the image processing unit  
2 has a first line length for processing the portrait\_left image data and the por-  
3 trait\_right image data and a second line length for processing the landscape image  
4 data.

1 11. (Unchanged) A method for rotating a display orientation of image data  
2 representative of an object, comprising the steps of:  
3 generating image data with an image sensor;  
4 identifying an orientation of the image sensor relative to the object at a  
5 time substantially simultaneous with the generating step, where  
6 said identifying is performed by an orientation sensor; and  
7 selectively transferring data to an image processing unit in response to the  
8 identifying step;  
9 [wherein said image processing unit rotates said display orientation of said image  
10 data and (a) said image processing unit processes an i-by-j array of said  
11 captured image data and said image sensor generates an i+1-by-j+1 array

12 of said image data, or (b) an image capture unit generates an additional row  
13 and column of pixels for said captured image data from said image sensor]  
14 wherein said image processing unit rotates said orientation of said image  
15 data by generating an additional row and column of pixels for said  
16 captured image data from said image sensor.

*Sub G/Cmt*

1 12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (As Filed) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of correct-  
2 ing defects within the image data caused by defects within the image sensor.

*X Cmt*

1 14. (As Filed) The method of claim 11, wherein the image sensor comprises a  
2 top, a right side and a left side, wherein the image comprises a "top portion," and  
3 wherein the step of identifying an orientation further comprises the steps of:  
4 identifying a portrait\_left orientation, if the left side of the image sensor  
5 corresponds to the "top portion" of the object;  
6 identifying a portrait\_right orientation, if the right side of the image sensor  
7 corresponds to the "top portion" of the object; and  
8 identifying a landscape orientation, if the top of the image sensor corre-  
9 sponds to the "top portion" of the object.

1 15. (As Filed) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of identifying an ori-  
2 entation further comprises the steps of:  
3 identifying a portrait\_left orientation, in response to a user selection of the  
4 portrait\_left orientation on an input device;  
5 identifying a portrait\_right orientation, in response to a user selection of  
6 the portrait\_right orientation on the input device; and

7 identifying a landscape orientation, in response to a user selection of the  
8 landscape orientation on the input device.

16. (As Filed) The method of claim 11, wherein the orientation is a por-  
trait\_left orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of pixel colors  
ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the step of selectively transferring com-  
prises the steps of:

initializing a column variable to a first column of pixel colors required by  
the image processing unit;  
initializing a row variable to a row containing a first pixel color required  
by the image processing unit;  
transferring pixel color at an array location defined by the row variable  
and the column variable to and the image processing unit;  
decrementing the row variable to a row containing a next pixel color re-  
quired by the image processing unit;  
returning to the transferring step, if a row containing a last pixel color has  
not been transferred;  
incrementing the column variable to a next column of pixel colors required  
by the image processing unit; and  
returning to the initializing a row variable step, if a last column of pixel  
colors has not been transferred.

17. (As Filed) The method of claim 16, wherein the image data is replaced by  
defective image sensor information, further comprising the step of repeating the  
steps of claim 16.

18. (As Filed) The method of claim 16, further comprises the steps of:

2       configuring the image processing unit to accept an image data line length  
3                   corresponding to the portrait\_left orientation; and  
4       performing image processing on a line of transferred image data.

1       19. (As Filed) The method of claim 11, wherein the orientation is a por-  
2       trait\_right orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of pixel col-  
3       ors ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the step of selectively transferring  
4       comprises the steps of:

5               initializing a column variable to a first column of pixel colors required by  
6                   the image processing unit;  
7               initializing a row variable to a row containing a first pixel color required  
8                   by the image processing unit;  
9               transferring pixel color at an array location defined by the row variable  
10                  and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
11               incrementing the row variable to a row containing a next pixel color re-  
12                  quired by the image processing unit;  
13               returning to the transferring step, if a row containing a last pixel color has  
14                  not been transferred;  
15               decrementing the column variable to a next column of pixel colors re-  
16                  quired by the image processing unit; and  
17               returning to the initializing a row variable step, if a last column of pixel  
18                  colors has not been transferred.

1       20. (As Filed) The method of claim 11, wherein the orientation is a landscape  
2       orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of pixel colors ordered  
3       in rows and columns, and wherein the step of selectively transferring further com-  
4       prises the steps of:

5 initializing a row variable to a first row of pixel colors required by the im-  
6 age processing unit;  
7 initializing a column variable to a column containing a first pixel color re-  
8 quired by the image processing unit;  
9 transferring pixel color at an array location defined by the row variable  
10 and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
11 incrementing the column variable to a column containing a next pixel color  
12 required by the image processing unit;  
13 returning to the transferring step, if a column containing a last color pixel  
14 has not been transferred;  
15 incrementing the row variable to a next row of pixel colors required by the  
16 image processing unit; and  
17 returning to the initializing a column variable step, if a last row of pixel  
18 colors has not been transferred.

1 21. (Amended) An apparatus for rotating a display orientation of multicolor  
2 image data having an i-by-j pixel matrix with a pattern representative of an object,  
3 comprising:  
4 means for generating multicolor image data with an image sensor, the im-  
5 age data having a Bayer pattern;  
6 orientation sensor means for identifying an orientation of said image sen-  
7 sor relative to said object at a time substantially simultaneous with  
8 said generating said multicolor image data; and  
9 means for selectively transferring said multicolor image data to an image  
10 processing unit in response to said means for identifying;  
11 wherein said image processing unit rotates said display orientation of said  
12 multicolor image data for providing rotated multicolor image data,

13 and changes the number of pixel rows and pixel columns of said  
14 multicolor image data such that, from a defined referenced view-  
15 point, said rotated multicolor image data includes having an (i-1)-  
16 by-(j-1) pixel matrix said pattern.

1 22. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for gener-  
2 ating an additional row and column of image data.

1 23. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for cor-  
2 recting defects within the image data caused by defects within the image sensor.

1 24. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the image sensor comprises  
2 a top, a right side and a left side, wherein the image comprises a "top portion," and  
3 wherein the means for identifying an orientation further comprises:

4 means for identifying a portrait\_left orientation, if the left side of the image  
5 sensor corresponds to the "top portion" of the object;  
6 means for identifying a portrait\_right orientation, if the right side of the  
7 image sensor corresponds to the "top portion" of the object; and  
8 means for identifying a landscape orientation, if the top of the image sen-  
9 sor corresponds to the "top portion" of the object.

1 25. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the orientation is a por-  
2 trait\_left orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of pixel colors  
3 ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the means for selectively transferring  
4 comprises:

5 means for initializing a column variable to a first column of pixel colors re-  
6 quired by the image processing unit;

7 means for initializing a row variable to a row containing a first pixel color  
8 required by the image processing unit;  
9 means for transferring pixel color at an array location, defined by the row  
10 variable and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
11 means for decrementing the row variable to a row containing a next pixel  
12 color required by the image processing unit;  
13 means for returning to the means for transferring, if a row containing a last  
14 pixel color has not been transferred;  
15 means for incrementing the column variable to a next column of pixel col-  
16 ors required by the image processing unit; and  
17 means for returning to the means for initializing a row variable, if a last  
18 column of pixel colors has not been transferred.

1 26. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the orientation is a por-  
2 trait\_right orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of pixel col-  
3 ors ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the means for selectively transferring  
4 comprises:

5 means for initializing a column variable to a first column of pixel colors re-  
6 quired by the image processing unit;  
7 means for initializing a row variable to a row containing a first pixel color  
8 required by the image processing unit;  
9 means for transferring pixel color at an array location, defined by the row  
10 variable and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
11 means for incrementing the row variable to a row containing a next pixel  
12 color required by the image processing unit;  
13 means for returning to the means for transferring, if a row containing a last  
14 pixel color has not been transferred;

15 means for decrementing the column variable to a next column of pixel col-  
16 ors required by the image processing unit; and  
17 means for returning to the means for initializing a row variable, if a last  
18 column of pixel colors has not been transferred.

1 Sub  
2 61  
3 Cmt  
4 27. (As Filed) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the orientation is a land-  
5 scape orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of pixel colors or-  
6 dered in rows and columns, and wherein the means for selectively transferring com-  
7 prises:

8 means for initializing a row variable to a first row of pixel colors required  
9 by the image processing unit;  
10 means for initializing a column variable to a column containing a first pixel  
11 color required by the image processing unit;  
12 means for transferring pixel color at an array location, defined by the row  
13 variable and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
14 means for incrementing the column variable to a column containing a next  
15 pixel color required by the image processing unit;  
16 means for returning to the means for transferring, if a column containing a  
17 last color pixel has not been transferred;  
18 means for incrementing the row variable to a next row of pixel colors re-  
quired by the image processing unit; and  
means for returning to the means for initializing a column variable, if a last  
row of pixel colors has not been transferred.

1 28. (Amended) A computer useable medium embodying computer readable  
2 program code for causing a computer to rotate a display orientation of multicolor

3 image data having an i-by-j pixel matrix with a pattern representative of an object, by  
4 performing steps comprising:

5 generating said multicolor image data with an image sensor, the image  
6 data having a Bayer pattern;

7 identifying an orientation of the image sensor relative to the object at a  
8 time substantially simultaneous with the generating step, wherein  
9 said identifying of said orientation is performed with an orientation  
10 sensor; and

11 selectively transferring image data to an image processing unit in response  
12 to the identifying step,

13 wherein said image processing unit rotates said display orientation of said  
14 multicolor image data for providing rotated multicolor image data,  
15 and changes the number of pixel rows and pixel columns of said  
16 multicolor image data such that, from a defined referenced view-  
17 point, said rotated multicolor image data includes having an (i-1)-  
18 by-(j-1) pixel matrix said pattern.

1 29. (As Filed) The computer useable medium of claim 28, further comprising  
2 program code for generating an additional row and column of image data.

1 30. (As Filed) The computer useable medium of claim 28, further comprising  
2 program code for correcting defects within the image data caused by defects within  
3 the image sensor.

1 31. (As Filed) The computer useable medium of claim 28, wherein the image  
2 sensor comprises a top, a right side and a left side, wherein the image comprises a  
3 "top portion," and wherein the program code for performing the step of identifying  
4 an orientation further comprises program code for:

5 identifying a portrait\_left orientation, if the left side of the image sensor  
6 corresponds to the "top portion" of the object;  
7 identifying a portrait\_right orientation, if the right side of the image sensor  
8 corresponds to the "top portion" of the object; and  
9 identifying a landscape orientation, if the top of the image sensor corre-  
10 sponds to the "top portion" of the object.

1 32. (As Filed) The computer useable medium of claim 28, wherein the orient-  
2 ation is a portrait\_left orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array  
3 of pixel colors ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the program code for per-  
4 forming the step of selectively transferring comprises program code for:

5 initializing a column variable to a first column of pixel colors required by  
6 the image processing unit;  
7 initializing a row variable to a row containing a first pixel color required  
8 by the image processing unit;  
9 transferring pixel color at an array location, defined by the row variable  
10 and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
11 decrementing the row variable to a row containing a next pixel color re-  
12 quired by the image processing unit;  
13 returning to the transferring step, if a row containing a last pixel color has  
14 not been transferred;  
15 incrementing the column variable to a next column of pixel colors required  
16 by the image processing unit; and  
17 returning to the initializing a row variable step, if a last column of pixel  
18 colors has not been transferred.

1       33. (As Filed) The computer useable medium of claim 28, wherein the orientation  
2       is a portrait\_right orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array  
3       of pixel colors ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the program code for per-  
4       forming the step of selectively transferring comprises program code for:

5             initializing a column variable to a first column of pixel colors required by  
6             the image processing unit;

7             initializing a row variable to a row containing a first pixel color required  
8             by the image processing unit;

9             transferring pixel color at an array location, defined by the row variable  
10            and the column variable, to the image processing unit;

11            incrementing the row variable to a row containing a next pixel color re-  
12            quired by the image processing unit;

13            returning to the transferring step, if a row containing a last pixel color has  
14            not been transferred;

15            decrementing the column variable to a next column of pixel colors re-  
16            quired by the image processing unit; and

17            returning to the initializing a row variable step, if a last column of pixel  
18            colors has not been transferred.

1       34. (As Filed) The computer useable medium of claim 28, wherein the orientation  
2       is a landscape orientation, wherein the image data is comprised of an array of  
3       pixel colors ordered in rows and columns, and wherein the program code for per-  
4       forming the step of selectively transferring comprises program code for:

5             initializing a row variable to a first row of pixel colors required by the im-  
6             age processing unit;

7 initializing a column variable to a column containing a first pixel color re-  
8 quired by the image processing unit;  
9 transferring pixel color at an array location, defined by the row variable  
10 and the column variable, to the image processing unit;  
11 incrementing the column variable to a column containing a next pixel color  
12 required by the image processing unit;  
13 returning to the transferring step, if a column containing a last color pixel  
14 has not been transferred;  
15 incrementing the row variable to a next row of pixel colors required by the  
16 image processing unit; and  
17 returning to the initializing a column variable step, if a last row of pixel  
18 colors has not been transferred.

1 35. (Amended) An apparatus for rotating a display orientation of multicolor  
2 captured image data having an i-by-j pixel matrix with a pattern representative of an  
3 object, comprising:

4 an image sensor, for generating said multicolor captured image data, the  
5 image data having a Bayer pattern;  
6 an orientation sensor coupled to said image sensor, for generating a signal  
7 corresponding to the position of said image sensor relative to said  
8 object; and  
9 a hardware device, having an auto-rotate unit comprising circuits for selec-  
10 tively transforming said multicolor captured image data into rotated  
11 multicolor image data in response to said position signal, said  
12 hardware device coupled to said image sensor and to said orienta-  
13 tion sensor;

14 wherein, from a defined referenced viewpoint, said rotated multicolor im-  
15 age data includes an (i-1)-by-(j-1) pixel matrix having said pattern.

1 36. (Unchanged) An apparatus for rotating a display orientation of captured  
2 image data representative of an object, the apparatus comprising:  
3 an image sensor, for generating said captured image data;  
4 an input device, for generating an orientation signal in response to a user  
5 selection;  
6 a memory, having an auto-rotate unit for selectively transforming said cap-  
7 tured image data into rotated image data in response to said orient-  
8 ation signal from said input device; and  
9 an image processing unit coupled to said memory for processing the image  
10 data by generating at least one additional row and column of pixels  
11 for said captured image data from said image sensor.

1 37. (Twice Amended) A digital image capture device, comprising:  
2 an image sensor, for capturing image data;  
3 an orientation sensor, for generating an orientation signal indicating  
4 whether the image sensor is in a portrait or landscape position; and  
5 an auto-rotate unit coupled to the image sensor and the orientation sensor,  
6 for automatically rotating a subset of the image data in response to  
7 the orientation signal.

1 38. (Cancelled)

1 39. (Unchanged) The digital image capture device of claim 37, further com-  
2 pising:

3       an image capture unit coupled to the image sensor, for adding m addi-  
4       tional rows and n additional columns to an i-by-j array of image  
5       data to form an i+m-by-j+n array of image data to be rotated by the  
6       auto-rotate unit in response to the orientation signal.

1       40. (Twice Amended) A method of rotating image data in a digital image  
2       capture device, comprising:

3       capturing image data from an image sensor;  
4       providing an orientation signal indicating whether the image sensor is in a  
5       portrait or landscape position; and  
6       automatically rotating a subset of the captured image data in response to  
7       the orientation signal.

1       41. (Cancelled)

1       42. (Unchanged) The method of claim 40, further comprising:  
2       adding m additional rows and n additional columns to an i-by-j array of  
3       the image data to form an i+m-by-j+n array of image data.

1       43. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon  
2       instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the  
3       steps of:

4       capturing image data from an image sensor;  
5       providing an orientation signal indicating whether the image sensor is in a  
6       portrait or landscape orientation; and  
7       automatically rotating a subset of the captured image data in response to  
8       the orientation signal.

1       44. (Cancelled)

1       45. (Unchanged) The computer-readable medium of claim 43, further com-  
2       pising:

3             adding m additional rows and n additional columns to an i-by-j array of  
4             the image data to form an i+m-by-j+n array of image data.

1       46. (Amended Three Times) A digital image capture device, comprising:  
2             image sensor means for generating image data;  
3             means for generating an orientation signal indicating either a portrait ori-  
4             entation or a landscape orientation of the image sensor; and  
5             means for automatically rotating a subset of the image data in response to  
6             the orientation signal.

1       47. (Unchanged) A digital image capture device, comprising:  
2             an image sensor, for generating said captured image data including a plu-  
3             rality of rows and columns of pixels;  
4             an orientation sensor coupled to said image sensor, for generating a posi-  
5             tion signal indicating whether the image sensor is in a portrait or  
6             landscape position;  
7             a memory, having an auto-rotate unit comprising program instructions for  
8             selectively transforming said captured image data into rotated im-  
9             age data in response to said position signal by processing at least  
10             one row of pixels and at least one column of pixels less than the plu-  
11             rality of rows and columns of pixels in the captured image data,  
12             said memory coupled to said image sensor and to said orientation  
13             sensor; and

14       an image processing unit coupled to said memory for executing the stored  
15       program instructions to rotate said capture image data.

1       48. (Unchanged) A method for rotating a display orientation of image data,

2       comprising:

3       generating image data with an image sensor including a plurality of rows  
4       and columns of pixels;

5       determining with an orientation sensor a portrait orientation or a land-  
6       scape orientation for the image data substantially simultaneously  
7       with generating the image data; and

8       processing the image data with an image processing unit in response to the  
9       orientation signal to rotate the image data, by rotating less than all  
10      of the plurality of rows and columns of pixels of the image data.